

National Statistics Award to State Library Agencies (Keppel Award)

The Federal-State Cooperative System (FSCS) for Public Library Data, a cooperative program of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS), presents an annual award (known as the Keppel Award) to State library agencies that have excelled in the completeness, promptness, and high quality of the local public library data that they collect, edit, and submit annually to NCES. The national public library data, including individual library data and State summaries, is made available by NCES from its website <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/sla.html>. Summary tables are also published annually in hard copy¹ under the title, Public Libraries in the U.S.

The Francis Keppel Award is named after a distinguished U.S. Commissioner of Education who served from 1962 to 1965. He was also a well-known NCLIS Commissioner from 1978 to 1983. Francis Keppel was an early and enthusiastic advocate of reliable and regularly reported national, State, and local library statistics that would provide a basis for public policy formulation and the improvement of library services for the entire spectrum of the U.S. population.

The award is presented annually at the Training Workshop.

The award is in the form of a working abacus with an appropriate plaque* and is given to the Chief Officer of the State library agency and to the State Data Coordinator.

* Second and subsequent year recipients receive a brass plate engraved with the year to add to their plaque.

¹ As of calendar year 2000 this information is on the NCES website. Hard copies are sent to State Library Agencies.